

1 Samuel Lesson 20 Jonathan, Saul's Son, and The Philistine Battle

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Armor bearer: Jonathan's armor bearer was more than a porter of military equipment. He fought with Jonathan and probably served as an apprentice.

Priest Wearing the Ephod: The ephod was associated with the Urim and Thummin which was used as an oracle. They were used much as we would use dice. When asked a question requiring a yes or no answer, the priest would roll the Urim and Thummin. In some way they received a yes or no from this roll. It was done to determine the divine will of Yahweh.

Earthquake: An earthquake sometimes paired with thunder was an indication of divine involvement in a battle.

Key Words:

stay: Strong's H3427 "yashab" dwell, inhabit, camp, tarry BDB: remain, stay, tarry

heart: Strong's H3824 "lebab": inner man, mind ,will, heart

trembling: Strong's H2731 "charadah" trembling, fear, anxiety

At the end of Chapter 13 we find the army of the Philistines, which greatly outnumbered Israel, ready to attack. In this chapter we will learn about the outcome of that battle as well as more of the character of King Saul contrasted with the character of his son Jonathan.

Read 1 Samuel 14:1-23

1. According to 1 Samuel 14:1-5 what proposal did Jonathan make to his armor bearer? How many men did Jonathan's proposal involve? Meanwhile where was Saul and how many men did he have with him? What does their action (or lack of action) reveal about the characters of both Saul and Jonathan?

2. What can you learn about the relationship between Jonathan and Yahweh and the relationship between Jonathan and his armor bearer in 1 Samuel 14:6-7? What do you do when facing a challenge and how can that influence others in your life?

3. In 14:8-11 Jonathan now makes a second proposal to his armor bearer regarding Yahweh and the Philistines. What does Jonathan's proposal and following action further reveal about his relationship with the Lord? What did Jonathan wait for before he acted? What were the results of His action in 14:14 and 15?

Application: What lessons can we learn from Jonathan when facing challenges and/or enemies in our lives?

4. According to 1 Samuel 14:16, Saul saw the Philistines were scattering. List all the things Saul did as a result of this in 14: 17-20. What do Saul's actions reveal about his heart for the Lord and his character?

5. Where did Saul place his trust to win the battle and how did that affect his actions? Who did Jonathan put his trust in to win the battle and how did that affect his actions? What are some of the consequences in your own life of placing your trust in someone or something other than Yahweh?